WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An embedded digital versatile disk recording system operable to selectively record a menu with an end-user generated background image on a digital versatile disk.

2. The recording system of Claim 1, wherein the background image is generated by selecting from a plurality of still background images.

3. The recording system of Claim 1, wherein the menu includes index frames and the background image.

4. The recording system of Claim 3, wherein the menu includes an index forming a button for navigating to each of a plurality of segments recorded on the digital versatile disk.

5. The recording system of Claim 1, wherein the recording system forms a portion of a stand alone digital video disk system.

6. The recording system of Claim 1, wherein the background is created from data imported in a format selected from the group consisting of Joint Picture Experts Group, Graphic Interchange File, Bitmap, and Moving Pictures Experts Group formats.

7. A method of creating customized menus in an embedded digital versatile disk recording system comprising:

selecting background data for generating a selected menu background;

selectively converting at least one index frame from a recorded digital versatile disk into decompressed video data;

composing the selected menu in decompressed space from the selected background data and the decompressed video data;

compressing the composed menu; and

recording the compressed composed menu onto the digital versatile disk.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein selecting background data comprises copying background data from the digital versatile disk.

9. The method of Claim 7, wherein selecting background data comprises importing background data from a digital data source selected from the group consisting of optical disk drives, programmed flash memory devices, and computing appliances.

10. The method of Claim 7, wherein selecting background data comprises selecting data for creating a still background image.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein selecting background data comprises selecting data for creating a still background image from the group of data formats consisting of Joint Picture Experts Group, Graphic Interchange File, or Bitmap data formats.

12. The method of Claim 7, wherein composing the selected menu comprises composing a button for navigating to a segment on the digital versatile disk from the decompressed video data.

13. The method of Claim 7, wherein composing the selected menu comprises composing a menu page having a background and a plurality of buttons composed of index frames representing each of a plurality of segments recorded on the digital versatile disk.

14. The method of Claim 7, wherein selecting background data comprises selecting data available for download from a computer network.

15. A home digital versatile disk playback – recording system comprising:

a digital versatile disk drive for recording and playing-back information on a digital versatile disk; and

a processing system for recording a menu with a selectable background image on the digital versatile disk.

16. The system of Claim 15, wherein the processing system includes a processor and a encoder – decoder operable to:

import background image data;

selectively convert selected index frames from the digital versatile disk into decompressed video data;

compose the selected menu in decompressed space from the imported background image data and the decompressed video data;

compress the composed menu; and

record the compressed composed menu on the digital versatile disk.

17. The system of Claim 16, further comprising a memory for storing a library of user-selectable background image data.

18. The system of Claim 17, wherein the memory comprises a non-volatile memory storing a preset selection of user-selectable background image data.

19. The system of Claim 19, further comprising a port for importing the background image data from an external source.

20. The system of Claim 15, further comprising an embedded drive for importing the background image data.